



Today's Sermons

Morning: The Bible VS. Atheism
Evening: Help! We Are Surrounded!

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FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	28
Sunday AM Worship	41
Sunday PM Worship	22
Wed. Bible Study	27
Offering	\$1550



**"Arise, shine; for thy light is come,
and the glory of the LORD is risen
upon thee."**

Isaiah 60:1 (KJV)



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130 Robert Street
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Minister:

Tim Canup
tim@wjchurchofchrist.org

Times of Services:

Sunday

Bible Study:... 10:00am
AM Worship:...11:00am
PM Worship:...6:00pm
2nd Sunday:.....1:30pm

Wednesday

Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program

Sunday:.....7:30am
"Back to the Bible"
AM 580 WSKK
93.5 FM

**We Extend A
Warm & Cordial
Welcome
To All Our
Visitors!**

CHILDREN OF GOD AND DEALING WITH EVIL
Roger D. Campbell

You and I were born into a world of evil, and as long as we remain on the earth, we will continue to live in that kind of world. In our everyday activities, whether we want to or not, we witness the reality of evildoers. In some cases, we may be on the receiving end of their wickedness.

In Romans 12:17-21, there are some fundamental principles about how Christians should handle the evil that they meet or have dumped in their laps. First, let us read the passage, then make some observations:

"Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."

Recompense to no man evil for evil (17) – That is God's message for Christians that are mistreated. The way of the animal kingdom is to fight back, sometimes to the death. The way of small children is to hit, kick, or bite back. The way of worldly people is to "fight fire with fire." The general thinking is, "I am just giving him a dose of his own medicine."

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When our Lord was reviled, He did not revile in return (1 Peter 2:23). Yes, it is so tempting to yell back at the yeller, speak hateful words right back at the hateful, and try to find a way to bully the bullies, but God does not want His children to stoop to the level of recompensing evil for evil.

As much as possible, live peaceably with evildoers (18) – In order for people to get along, all of the parties involved must seek to obtain and maintain peace. Our obligation is to do all within our power to live in a peaceful fashion with all men, including evildoers. Sometimes, though, it does not work out because the other fellow just has no interest in being peaceable, as it is written, *“I am for peace: but when I speak, they are for war”* (Psalm 120:7). Contrary to what many suppose, taking the approach that tries to be a person of peace is not the way of weakness or cowardice. It is the way of imitating the Son of God, whose life was the epitome of strength and courage.

Do not avenge yourselves (19) – When we have been wronged, there may be a voice within us that cries out, “An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.” That message is in the Bible alright, but it was instruction that God gave to the Israelites under the old covenant. Plus, those words never did give a person the sanction to take matters into his own hands in the form of a lynching mob. Instead, judges were to make diligent inquiry, then they were the ones that were authorized to deal with the lawbreakers in an “eye-for-an-eye” fashion (Deut. 19:18-21). Vengeance belongs to the Lord (Romans 12:19). Going right on into the beginning of the next chapter of Romans, we see that, at least in some cases, matters can be settled by appealing to civil authorities, who act as avengers on those that do evil (13:3,4).

Treat even those that are enemies with human decency (20) – Sometimes we become so frustrated, so agitated, so angry, that our emotions take over and get the best of us. Before you know it, we are out of control, acting and talking in a rage, making fools of ourselves and bringing reproach on the Cause of the One that we claim to serve. We know that Jesus said that we are to love our enemies (Matthew 5:44). While we might be inclined to think, “Okay, I’ll try, but only from a distance,” the Holy Spirit guided Paul to say that we should provide food and drink to enemies that stand in need of such (Romans 12:20). That is simply showing what we call “human decency.” The Master said that even sinners are nice to people that are nice to them. Christians must live on a higher plain (Luke 6:31-35).

Be not overcome by evil (21) – We are in a spiritual war. We must hold our ground in the fight against the wiles of the devil (Ephesians 6:10-13). We must not give in or give up in the battle to save our own souls, save our families, and save our nation. It bums us out to see such widespread evil in all of its diverse forms, but let us not forget that He Who is in us is greater than he that is in the world! (1 John 4:4).

Overcome evil with good (21) – This charge reminds us that we must not be passive. We must not sit back and wish for somebody somewhere to do something to help turn things around. Soldiers of the Christ, arise and put your armor on! Live a life of godliness and good works (Matthew 5:16). Teach others the good and right way (1 Samuel 12:23). If we will constantly make an effort to please the Lord in all that we do, then great things can happen! There will always be evil in the world, but we can overcome it by doing that which is good.

Obviously, our Lord wants us to think and act on a higher plain than the world does. Romans 12:17-21 gives clear instructions about how we need to conduct ourselves in the face of evil or mistreatment. It does not matter how other people respond in the face of such: what God says to do is right, period. May He help us to apply these practical teachings in our lives.

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*"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words" (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- June 23-24 – Tent Meeting in Lansing
- June 25 – Song Service
- July 2 – Men’s Business Meeting & Ladies’ Class
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell